

Please delete lines 13-24 on page 4 of the specification.

Please replace line 1 on page 7 of the specification with the following.

--WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please add the following Claims 8 and 9.

--8. The process of Claim 2 wherein said pressing ratio P is from 0.5 to 3.0.

9. The process of Claim 1 wherein the compacted free-flowing lacquer raw material has a moisture content of at least 25 %.--

Please replace Claim 1 with the following.

1. (Once Amended, Clean) A process for producing compacted free-flowing lacquer raw materials based on nitrocellulose comprising pressing lacquer raw material, which is moistened with alcohol or water, through the holes of a die.

Please replace Claim 2 with the following.

2. (Once Amended, Clean) The process of Claim 1 wherein said process is carried out at a pressing ratio, P, as represented by the following formula,

$$P = (\text{length of bore}) \div (\text{diameter of bore})$$

of from 0.5 – 5.0.

Please replace Claim 3 with the following.

3. (Once Amended, Clean) The process of Claim 1 wherein the lacquer raw material is pressed through the die holes by means of one or more circulating breakers.

Please replace Claim 4 with the following.

4. (Once Amended, Clean) The process of Claim 1 wherein the lacquer raw material is pressed through the die holes by means of one or more oscillating wheels.

Please replace Claim 5 with the following.

5. (Once Amended, Clean) The process of Claim 1 further comprising shearing off the compacted lacquer raw material, below the die, into pieces of selected length.

Please replace Claim 6 with the following.

6. (Once Amended, Clean) The process of Claim 1 wherein the lacquer raw material has a nitrogen content  $\leq 12.6\%$ .

Please replace Claim 7 with the following.

7. (Once Amended, Clean) A compacted free-flowing lacquer raw material based on nitrocellulose prepared by the process of Claim 1.

---